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A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1944.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

to the Chairman and Members of the
Felixstowe Urban District Council

for the year ended December 31st, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Statistics, I fear, are of little value, under the shifting conditions of our wartime population but I give them for what they are worth.

Births and Deaths.

I have calculated the birth and death rates according to the estimate of population of the Registrar General for 1943.

There were 201 births with a birth rate of 26 per thousand.

115 deaths were registered in the district; there were 29 inward and 17 outward transfers so that the total belonging to the district is 127. This gives a death rate of 16 per thousand. Both these rates are abnormally high if compared with our pre-war estimates.

There were only 5 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, so that our infantile death rate is only 25 per thousand births registered.

There were three deaths from tuberculosis giving a rate of .39 per thousand. Twenty three deaths from cancer give a rate of 3 per thousand

There was one death from puerperal fever but none from any other infectious disease; in fact there has been only one notification among the civilian population, a single case of scarlet fever which was sent to the Ipswich Isolation Hospital.

Among His Majesty's forces 44 cases were notified, details of which are given separately, as are also the details of cancer and tuberculosis.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

Prophylaxis of diphtheria has been conducted at school clinics by the County Sanitary authority but a few children have been inoculated by private practitioners, the fee of 2/6 for each inoculation being paid by the Council and the vaccine provided by the County Authority.

The approximate number of children in the Felixstowe Urban District at the end of the year was 2137, 977 under 5 years of age and 1140 between 5 and 15. 45.96 p.c. of the children under 5 and 55 p.c. of those between 5 and 15 were estimated as being immunised against diphtheria at the end of December 1944. This estimate includes both residents and immigrants.

It is unlikely that the statistics given in my report will be found to differ materially from those of the Registrar General, which, from previous experience we are not entitled to expect for some months. Where discrepancies are found, they may be due to differences in the assigned causes of death. Thus, there may be two causes entered on a certificate such, for example, as nephritis and cerebral haemorrhage, the latter being dependent upon the former; but the case has to be classified under one heading in a statistical record. In the assignment of births, moreover, there may be uncertainty as to the home district of the parents, and corrections may not be made until some time after the birth has occurred.

Infectious diseases.

Among the Civilian population the incidence of notifiable infectious disease has been almost nil. One case of Scarlet fever was notified and sent to the Isolation Hospital. One case of puerperal fever occurred, not developing until the eighth day after delivery. It was removed to the Cottage Hospital for treatment but died a few days after admission. Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping cough and Mumps have not been severe and are not officially notifiable.

Among His Majesty's forces the following were notified:-

Jaundice or infective hepatitis	17
Recurrent Malaria	13
Diphtheria	4
Measles	3
Rubella	3
Mumps	1
Scarlet fever	1
Influenza	1
Chicken pox	1

Tuberculosis.

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Sanitary Authority. Names and addresses of patients are notified to me and transmitted to the County Medical Officer, who visits them if requested and arranges for sanatorium or domiciliary treatment as required. Examination of sputum or other pathological material is done at the County Laboratory.

The register of tuberculosis for 1944 is as follows:-

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Totals		DEATHS Pulmonary		DEATHS Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Number on register on January 1st 1944.	13	9	7	3	20	12	-	-	-	
New cases	2	4	1	-	3	4	1	-	-	2
Removed from register	1	2	3	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Number on register on December 31st 1944	14	11	5	3						

Seven new cases were added to the register during the year and six were removed. Three of these died as shewn above, two of the non-pulmonary cases recovered and are returned as cured, the other removed from the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

A Clinic is held weekly at 2 p.m. at the Salvation Army Hall in Walton. The Clinic is attended by Dr. Parkinson M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H., who gives lectures, advice and help to mothers and expectant mothers.

It is especially intended for mothers with children under the age of 5 years.

The District Nurses who also attend the clinic are

Nurse Prentice, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Nurse Dixon, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Nurse Rooney, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., R.F.N.

(Note: S.C.M. - State Certified Midwife. S.R.N. - State Registered Nurse. S.F.N. - State Fever Nurse.)

These nurses reside at the Nurses Home, 110 High Road West.

They are employed by the District Nursing Association which is supported by voluntary contributions, augmented by a County grant and small fees from patients who can afford to pay.

The following is a record of their work during 1944:-

Maternity visits	2066
Midwifery visits	1332
General visits	1639
Casual visits	337
Miscarriage visits	220
Public Health visits:-	
To children	3091
Tuberculosis	75
Ante-natal	689
Clinic attendances	
At Felixstowe	3292
Kirton	221

The Senior District Nurse acts as Health Visitor and one or two of the District Nurses hold a weekly clinic at Kirton.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Felixstowe Cottage Hospital which also serves the needs of Trimley, Kirton and Falkenham, has 34 beds and 6 emergency beds.

It also has a well equipped X ray apparatus for diagnosis of injuries and disease.

During 1944 - 1138 out-patients and 492 in-patients received treatment. The Bartlet Convalescent Home is used entirely by the East Suffolk Hospital for its own patients.

There is one Maternity Nursing Home with accommodation for 6 patients.

The Suffolk Convalescent Home and the Herman de Stearn Home have been diverted temporarily from their original purposes.

Water Supply.

Water supply and sewage disposal continue as described in previous and pre-war reports and the sanitary services are also unchanged.

House and food inspection, water and milk analysis, are dealt with in the appended report by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

G.J. CONFORD, D.M. (Oxon) M.O.H.

26th February, 1945.

TABLE OF CANCER MORTALITY FOR 1944.

Region Primarily affected by growth	Age periods								Total both sexes
	40 - 45		45 - 65		65 and over		Totals		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Stomach		1				1		2	2
Liver				1	1		1	1	2
Bowel			1	1	4	1	5	2	7
Blader and prostate					2	1	2	1	3
Breast		1		2				3	3
Uterus						1		1	1
Gullet					1		1		1
Larynx					1		1		1
Bronchus			1				1		1
Pancreas				1				1	1
Multiple						1		1	1
Totals.		2	2	5	9	5	11	12	23

MORTALITY TABLE FOR 1944.

DISEASE	AGE PERIODS														Both sexes
	0-1		1-5		5-25		25-45		45-65		65 & over		Totals		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Pneumonia									1		3		4		4
Bronchitis												1		1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						1	1			1			1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage Thrombosis and Embolism						1			2	2	5	12	7	15	22
Heart disease and Senile myocardial degeneration	1			1					4	1	15	24	20	26	46
Nephritis									1		1	4	2	4	6
Cancer								2	2	6	10	3	12	11	23
Intestinal obstruction								1	1	1	1		2	1	3
Diabetes											2	2	2	2	4
Influenza										1				1	1
Congenital malformations and other diseases of the newborn	2	1		1									2	2	4
Accidental deaths	1												1		1
Suicides							1						1		1
Leukaemia											1		1		1
Puerperal fever								1						1	1
Other diseases									2		4		6		6
Totals	4	1		2		2	2	3	13	12	42	46	61	66	127

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

293 complaints were received during the year. 121 of them referred to rat infested properties following the publicity given to our Rat Destruction Scheme. 193 Notices were served for defects in matters of housing, sanitation, etc., and 215 premises were dealt with for rats.

Water Supply.

Two samples of the Town's water supply were submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. Both reports were satisfactory and the later one is given below:-

Chemical Analysis.

Source Town Supply. Tap, 17, Leopold Road, Felixstowe.

Collected 2.50 p.m. 11.9.44. Arrived 1 p.m. 13.9.44.

Analysis

Physical Characteristics	Clean, colourless, odourless.	
Reaction	p.H. 7.6	
Free Ammonia	.0006	parts per 100,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002	" " " "
Nitrite-nitrogen	Nil.	" " " "
Nitrate-nitrogen	0.60	" " " "
Tidy figure (3 hours, 37°C)	0.03	" " " "
Chloride-chlorine	3.2	" " " "
Total Solids	28.8	" " " "
Total Hardness	19.8	" " " "
Permanent Hardness	7.4	" " " "
Temporary Hardness	12.4	" " " "
Poisonous Metals	Nil	
Free chlorine	Nil	

Report

Chemically satisfactory.

13th September, 1944.

(Signed) M.E. Delafield

Emergency Public Health
Laboratory Service
London School of Hygiene

Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 c.c. = Nil.

Plate count 2 days at 37°C = Nil per c.c.
Plate count 3 days at 22°C = 60 per c.c.

Satisfactory.

(Low temperature plate count rather on the high side)

(Signed) J. H. Nelson.

County Bacteriologist
County Laboratory,
Ipswich.

Three samples of water were taken from private wells serving a cowshed and dairy which it is hoped to get connected to the public supply when a permit for the necessary materials can be obtained.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under Public Health Act & Housing Act.	43
Inspections and revisits.	194

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Bakehouses	49
Fishfryers	29
Stables, Piggeries and keeping of Animals	41
Overcrowding	2
Refuse accommodation	20
Vans, Moveable dwellings, etc.	11
Sanitary defects and nuisances	72
Offensive accumulations	56
Refuse tip	15
Houses re Vermin	4
Cesspools	15
Wells	11
Closet accommodation	25
Interviews	64
Water samples	5
Rat infested premises	314
Air Raid Shelters	196
Mosquito Spraying	15
Visits re Disinfections	17

MILK & DAIRIES

Cowsheds	55
Dairies	75

MEAT & FOOD

Slaughterhouses	5
Other inspections of Food and Food Preparing premises	77

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS

Factories, Workplaces and Workshops.	29

DRAINS

Inspected	164
Tested	2
Choked drains cleared	28
	1,633

Housing Act.

No Statutory Notices were served during the year. Informal notices to remedy housing defects were served in respect of 34 houses.

Factories Act.

A good many of the workshops on our register have closed down since the war. 29 visits were paid to factories and workshops (excluding bakehouses). Notices to remedy sanitary defects were given in two cases.

MILK SUPPLY.

Cowsheds - There are now 7 in the district, one old shed having been reconstructed on modern lines and put into use during the year. In general, conditions in our cowsheds and the handling of milk therein are good. Improvements to the dairying accommodation at one shed have been carried out during the year.

Dairies. Milk (Special Designations) Order.

The following special milk licences were issued during 1944:-

Bottler of Tuberculin Tested	1
Bottler of Accredited	1
Pasteuriser	-
Dealer in Tuberculin Tested	1
Dealer in Pasteurised	1
	4

Samples of milk submitted to the East Suffolk County Laboratory were:-

	No. taken	Results Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin tested	9	8	1
Accredited	8	6	2
Pasteurised	9	8	1
Ungraded ("ordinary" milk)	2	1	1
	28	23	5

Faulty bottle cleansing was probably the cause of some of the unsatisfactory results particularly where mechanical washers are used, since working parts for such apparatus are not so easily replaced as before the war. This method is now frequently supplemented by hand washing, especially with the larger sized bottles.

One of our dairies closed down during the year, the business being merged into another local dairy.

Total visits paid to Dairies during the year = 75.

Food Inspections.

There is now no regular slaughtering in the Urban District. 5 inspections were made of householders pigs slaughtered on licensed premises. Two slaughtermen retain their licences under the Slaughter of Animals Act. Food inspections were made at the request of the Food Executive Officer and reports furnished to him when occasion required.

Particulars of food condemned during the year:-

	tins.		lbs.
Tinned milk	145	Wet fish	60
" meat	41	Boiled hams	6
" fruit	13	Imported mutton	200
" fish	147	Cereals, flour, etc.	316
" jam	11	Suet.	33
" beans	21	Lentils	56
		Imported Pig kidney	25
	378 tins	Pigs head	12
			708 lbs.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Rat destruction has been actively pursued during the year, 215 premises being dealt with by the Council's rat catcher. The 4/- per year householders contract has enabled us to destroy considerable numbers of rats and maintain a service, that so far just pays its way. This service deals chiefly with people who come to us (we have had 121 complaints during the year) and though these complaints are often the starting point for block clearances of rats, more could be done in searching out and exterminating these vermin by a fuller use of the rat catcher. It is hoped to arrange this in the New Year and we should be entitled to claim at least some part of the cost of maintaining the service from the Ministry of Food under the Infestation Order.

Rats in Sewers.

A test to ascertain whether or to what extent our sewers are infested with rats was made during the year. Baits were laid in thirteen manholes in various parts of the town and visited two days later when it was found that seven out of the thirteen baits had been taken. The life history of these sewer rats remains something of a mystery as they do not seem to break out of the sewers into private drains. So far we have traced only one surface infestation back to the sewers. Nothing has been done to cope with these sewer rats because the simultaneous pre-baiting, baiting and post-baiting of large numbers of sewer manholes entails a great deal more labour than can be spared at the present time.

Disinfections.

79 disinfections of rooms, bedding, etc., were arranged during the year.

Billeting of Evacuees.

Several hundred evacuees from flying bomb areas reached this district during the summer and for a period my duties as Chief Billeting Officer took precedence over other work. Many of these evacuees still remain and the supervision of their allowances and billeting matters generally, are still carried on through my office. The actual billeting and the welfare arrangements have been entirely in the hands of the Women's Voluntary Service who have given indispensable assistance which I most gratefully acknowledge.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam

and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT GREENWOOD.
C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.